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Dated: May 27, 2005 Signature: \_\_\_

(Danielle L. Herritt)

Docket No.: BSZ-050
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Raphael J. Mannino et al.

Application No.: 10/822230

Confirmation No.: 1325

Filed: April 9, 2004

Art Unit: 1636

For:

NOVEL ENCOCHLEATION METHODS,

COCHLEATES AND METHODS OF USE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. A copy of each reference on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

Documents A19, A34, and D5 of the attached SB/08 were cited in an International Search Report issued October 22, 2004, during the prosecution of international application no. PCT/US2004/011026, which corresponds to the above referenced application. In accordance with '37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), Applicant hereby submit(s) these documents for the Examiner's consideration. A copy of the International Search Report and of each document required under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) cited thereon are enclosed as well. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information

Application No.: 10/822230 Docket No.: BSZ-050

Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such. Moreover, Applicant(s) understand(s) the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited documents.

In addition, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following United States patent applications.

| U.S. Ser. No.         | Filing Date |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 11/042,598 (008DVCN)  | 01/24/05    |
| 11/040,615 (009CPCN2) | 01/18/05    |
| 10/304,567 (010CN)    | 11/26/02    |
| 10/701,364 (014)      | 11/03/03    |
| 10/759,381 (017)      | 01/15/04    |
| 11/051,562 (038)      | 02/03/05    |
| 11/047,373 (039)      | 01/28/05    |
| 10/822,235 (049)      | 04/09/04    |

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. BSZ-050. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: May 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle L. Herritt Registration No.: 43,670

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| Cascalate is is in 1445/55/176    |                              |               |                      | Application Number     | 10/822230-Conf. #1325 |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE            |                              |               |                      | Filing Date            | April 9, 2004         |  |
| S                                 | STATEMENT BY APPLICANT       |               | First Named Inventor | Raphael J. MANNINO     |                       |  |
|                                   |                              |               |                      | Art Unit               | 1636                  |  |
| (Use as many sheets as necessary) |                              | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned     |                        |                       |  |
| Sheet                             | 1                            | of            | 4                    | Attorney Docket Number | BSZ-050               |  |

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| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No.1          | Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> ( if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No.1 | Foreign Patent Document  Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T€       |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| Examiner Date Considered |           |                     |     |
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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                                   |                            |                      |                    | Application Number     | 10/822230-Conf. #1325 |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE            |                            |                      |                    | Filing Date            | April 9, 2004         |  |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT            |                            | First Named Inventor | Raphael J. MANNINO |                        |                       |  |
|                                   |                            |                      |                    | Art Unit               | 1636                  |  |
| (Use as many sheets as necessary) |                            |                      | necessary)         | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned      |  |
| Sheet                             | 2                          | of                   | 4                  | Attorney Docket Number | BSZ-050               |  |

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|----------------------|--------------------------|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.          | T² |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Examiner  | Date       |
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|       |                             | . •       |            | Application Number     | 10/822230-Conf. #1325 |  |
| l IN  | NFORMATION                  | N DIS     | CLOSURE    | Filing Date            | April 9, 2004         |  |
| l s   | TATEMENT                    | BY A      | PPLICANT   | First Named Inventor   | Raphaei J. MANNINO    |  |
|       |                             |           |            | Art Unit               | 1636                  |  |
|       | (Use as many sh             | eets as i | necessary) | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned      |  |
| Sheet | 3                           | of        | 4          | Attorney Docket Number | BSZ-050               |  |

|                      |                          | NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS   |    |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.                     | T² |  |  |  |  |
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| Examiner  | <br> | Date       |  |
| Signature | <br> | Considered |  |

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|       |                              |         |            | Application Number     | 10/822230-Conf. #1325 |  |
| 11    | NFORMATION                   | 1 DI    | SCLOSURE   | Filing Date            | April 9, 2004         |  |
| S     | TATEMENT E                   | 3Y /    | APPLICANT  | First Named Inventor   | Raphael J. MANNINO    |  |
|       |                              |         |            | Art Unit               | 1636                  |  |
|       | (Use as many sho             | eets as | necessary) | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned      |  |
| Sheet | 4                            | of      | 4          | Attorney Docket Number | BSZ-050               |  |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |              |  |    |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|----|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials            | Cite<br>No.1 | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.            | T² |  |  |
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

| Examiner  | Date       |
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Application No. (if known): 10/822230

Attorney Docket No.: BSZ-050

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| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)              |   |  |         |  |  |
|--|---|--|---------|--|--|
| Fee Transn                                     | nittal Form                                 | Drawing(s)   |         | After Allowance Communication to TC                            |  |
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| After  | Final                                       | Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application             |         | Proprietary Information  |  |
| Affida   | avits/declaration(s)                        | Power of Attorney, Revocation<br>Change of Correspondence Ad | dress   | Status Letter  |  |
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(Danielle L. Herritt)